

## Items of Interest.



Dawson county claims to be the best irrigated county in Nebraska.

It is estimated that 500,000,000 trees have been planted as a direct result of Arbor day.

Six languages are spoken in the British Isles—English, French, Irish, Gaelic, Manx and Welsh.

The state labor department of Minnesota says that 14 per cent of the state's wage-earners are women.

Ordinarily the buzzard appears to be slow of flight, but it is said to be capable of flying 90 miles an hour.

Railroad building in Mexico is slow and costly work, but Mexico is well to the front each year in railroad construction.

The level of the Dead Sea has risen to a marked degree. Low places formerly above the sea level are now inundated.

France places a tax of 10 per cent on all theatre tickets sold. The revenue is devoted to the care of the indigent poor.

More fruit is raised in the United States than in any other country. This nation excels in the raising of strawberries and grapes.

The Lombardy poplar is growing in favor again, and arboriculturists are planting it frequently. The first one in America was planted in 1785.

Fort Kearney, Neb., was abandoned nearly thirty-five years ago, but army relics are plowed up on the old parade ground nearly every day in spring.

Mississippi takes the name of "Bayou state" from the fact that it contains so many stretches of stagnant water backed up by the Mississippi river.

Sir Thomas Lipton's challenger for the America cup, "Shamrock II.," was launched last week. It is said to be the best racing yacht ever built in Great Britain.

"The devil's club" is a peculiar plant that infests the forests of British Columbia. Its spikes pierce the flesh and break off, remaining in the wound to fester.

William Gordon Bennett, owner of the New York Herald, announces that if Sir Thomas Lipton wins the America cup this year he will build a challenger next year.

Queen Alexandria has a fad of collecting the footgear of famous men and women. The gem of her large collection is a pair of shoes once worn by Mary Queen of Scots.

Two years ago Mrs. John Sands, jr., of Wooster, O., lost her wedding ring. A few days ago it was found in the crop of a chicken she had sold to a local poultry dealer.

More French champagne is consumed in New York City each year than is made in France. One is compelled to wonder where the rest of the French champagne is made.

Argentina flax, from the South American country of that name, is said to be the best and most prolific known. North Dakota flax-raisers are using it to the exclusion of all other kinds.

King Edward VII. contemplates dividing his mother's collection of books among the libraries of the United Kingdom. With that end in view he has commissioned an expert to catalogue the collection.

Thornton F. Marshall, who died in Kentucky a few weeks ago, was a member of the Kentucky legislature that voted on the ordinance of secession. Marshall's vote was cast in the negative and was the deciding vote that kept Kentucky in the union.

Thirty-five years ago the buffalo existed on the prairies of the United States by the million.

A few months ago a "buffalo census" was taken and revealed that only 1,024 now exist. Of this number 684 are in captivity and 340 in a wild state.

The oldest ferry on the Missouri river is at White Cloud, Kas. Other ferries were established before it was, but have since been abandoned because of the erection of bridges. The White Cloud ferry is propelled by steam and has made its owner, John Lynds, rich.

Senator Clark of Montana, while returning from his Paris club one night recently, was beset by three highwaymen who knocked him down and proceeded to rob him. A passing cab-driver rescued the senator, and since that time cabbies has been the constant attendant upon the noted Montana man.

Forty years ago Forest City, Mo., was on the Missouri river and was a great shipping point. Immense warehouses were erected on the river bank and thousands of dollars invested in business depending on the river trade. One night the river cut off a point and left Forest City seven miles inland. One of the old warehouses still stands.

Such insignificant things as rats will soon become the subject of international consideration. Japan has declared war upon the rodents. The Japanese hold that the rodents have no possible excuse for existence, while at the same time they are conveyances for the worst of diseases. Japan, therefore, proposes to call upon all the countries of the world to co-operate with it in an organized warfare upon rats. It is claimed that these animals are particularly active in carrying the bubonic plague. Hence Japan's peculiar anxiety for their destruction.

Vandals partially stripped the heroic statue of former Vice President Hendricks in the capitol yard at Indianapolis, evidently to sell the bronze as junk. A large bronze shield with laurel leaves, the heavy scales which were held by a figure of justice, and other metal parts are gone, and the vandals also wrecked one of the large granite ornaments in order to reach the bronze. It will be difficult to restore the monument to its original condition. The statue was made eleven years ago in Florence, Italy, by the American sculptor, R. H. Parks, and when made was one of the largest statues of bronze ever cast in one piece.

Dr. V. C. Vaughan, dean of the medical department of Ann Arbor university, appeared before the state board of health and acknowledged that the student, Charles B. Hare, had the bubonic plague. He said the disease would not spread, as all precautions had been taken. Preventive doses of serum were even injected into the doctors attending the patient. Dr. Vaughan says that Hare contracted the disease by an accident such as occurred in the laboratory in Vienna in 1898, when two doctors lost their lives by handling bubonic plague bacilli. In the Michigan case the curative serum was used promptly, and the patient has nearly recovered.

H. T. Bosman of Hong Kong, who is visiting in this country, has a scheme to at once civilize China and dispose of the problem of indemnity to be paid to the powers. Mr. Bosman's scheme is this: Let the powers agree upon the amount of indemnity to be paid, and then contract among themselves and with the Peking government that the entire sum, say \$200,000,000, shall be used for building railroads and for other internal improvements in China, under the joint control of the powers, to be operated by them until the full amount of the investment is returned and until China is in a position to become, by purchase, the sole owner of the improvements.

Rev. Dr. Harcourt of Baltimore delivered an address at the commencement exercises of the school of medicine in that city, and among other things said: "Young men, in advising you about your future work I urge you to be careful about

allowing clergymen in the sickroom. They are great cause of alarm, tip-toeing about with a little black book under their arm and whispering to the sick or dying person: 'Are you ready?' The sickbed is not a place for the transformation in the life of the individual. It is character that tells here and hereafter, and not the little puff of prayer at the last few moments, which goes up when a minister is called to prepare a man for death. So, while you may think that I am speaking radically, remember that there are so many who put off the preparation for death to the end. So, I say, keep the ministers out of the sickroom; the bedside is not their place."

One of the subjects discussed at a recent meeting of clergymen held in New York city, called to consider the growing passion of society women for gambling, was the fact that there are so few children in the homes of the rich and so many in the tenements. The ministers deplore the fact that there are so few young people in their congregations and so few children in the Sunday schools. Reports from twelve prominent churches attended by families of wealth and fashion showed a total membership of 9,661, with but 1,500 children on the rolls of the Sunday schools. It was reported that only sixty-one children attended the Sunday school of a church which has 1,000 members. The homes of the rich are practically childless. In the mile of palaces on Fifth avenue, between Fifty-seventh and Seventy-second streets, there are only fifteen children under twelve years of age. The average is about one child to three of those costly and beautiful homes.

The following from London is of interest: The Spectator discusses "The Continent and America," taking as a text a portion of an interview with Admiral Count Canevaro at Toulon, which the Spectator believes has not attracted the attention it deserves. Admiral Canevaro, after declaring that the Triple and Dual Alliances had given Europe thirty years of peace, said: "This fact will, perhaps, lead European nations to consider the possibility and necessity of uniting against America, Africa and Asia, the future of civilization will require them to do so." The Spectator does not consider this the rash outburst of the "man in the street," for Admiral Canevaro has been Italian minister of foreign affairs. "His utterance," the paper says, "corresponds exactly with that of Count Golochowski (Austro-Hungarian foreign minister) and with all the recent trend of affairs. The annoyance of the continent with America, which is very deep, is based upon three reasons, the first being the dread, or rather the conviction, that competition with America is nearly impossible, her wealth and energy being too great. Both are employed, the continent thinks, to monopolize trade and so to control in the end all the wealth of the world, an idea not without advocates even among ourselves." The Spectator mentions the giant trusts and protection, and refers to the Americans as "not scrupling to commence quick and severe reprisal if European governments fence them off with tariffs." The article goes on: "The second reason is that America is sadly in the way in Asia. The whole action of the Washington government in the Chinese muddle points to the conclusion that, although the Americans took the Philippines, they are not willing to see any but native powers in control of the richest countries of Asia. The third reason is America's attitude in South America. She will neither take it nor let anybody else. The total result is a bitter dislike of America, mixed with dread. Our object is only to awaken the Americans from an illusion, to induce them to increase their fleet, and to persuade them to think steadily out what they are doing. They may rely upon it that the continent will lose nothing by want of planning, and that, when the alliance against America of which Admiral Canevaro talks is transmuted into facts, it will be full grown and full armed."